

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 remain pending in the application. Claims 1, 4-9, 12-16, 19, 20, and 24-27 stand rejected. Claims 2, 3, 10, 11, 17, 18 and 21-23 contain allowable subject matter in which Claims 2, 3, 10, 11, 17, 18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 9 and 16 to incorporate the limitations of Claims 2, 10, and 17 into Claims 1, 9 and 16, respectively, and cancelled Claims 2, 10 and 17. Claims 24-27 have been cancelled without prejudice. Minor amendments have been made to Claims 3, 11, and 18 without changing the claimed subject matter contained therein. As such, it is believed that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (314) 726-7524.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 15 APR 05

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